The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the major improvements in health status during the last century have been the result of population-based public heath initiatives, such as safe drinking water and food supplies, reduction of smoking, promotion of oral health, immunizations, family planning, sewage disposal, and infectious disease control; and

WHEREAS, the goal of public health is to empower individuals and communities to take responsibility for their own health by minimizing known unhealthy behaviors, taking appropriate preventive measures, and making informed, cost-effective choices about the use of appropriate and effective health services; and

WHEREAS, public health today represents society's best effort to improve health by reducing social and physical environmental health threats and by promoting access to proven cost-effective, preventive health practices; and

WHEREAS, a strong public health system can help make the connection between the way we lead our lives and our impact on the planet, and can facilitate a major shift in how society addresses the unprecedented challenge of climate change;

WHEREAS, the health of all Washington's residents depends upon the availability of adequate health education, protection, promotion, and a health care system that ensures everyone has access to affordable, quality care; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association has proclaimed April 6-12 National Public Health Week with the theme *Building the Foundation for a Healthy America*; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Public Health Association and health-related state agencies will highlight the public health message of *Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Washington* during April;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 6-12, 2009, as

PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

in the State of Washington, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 5th day of March, 2009

Chris Gregoire

Governor Christine O. Gregoire